

The 24th Day of November



**Afterfeast of the Entry of the Most-holy Theotokos into the Temple.
Commemoration of Greatmartyr Catherine of Alexandria; and
Greatmartyr Mercurius of Cæsarea.**

Evening Service

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stikhera.

3 for Greatmartyr Catherine, in Tone 1: *Special melody “Joy of the ranks of heaven....”*

Today the city of Alexandria /
And thy holy church are both adorned /
With thy grave clothes, O martyr ; /
As we piously celebrate thy memory, O Catherine, ///
Pray for us who honor thee!

Let us celebrate the memory of Catherine. /
For truly she cast down the powers of the enemy /
And the rhetoric of the philosophers by her mighty words and deeds. ///
By her prayers deliver us, O God, from our godless enemies.

Rejoice, all-glorious and precious martyr Catherine! /
For thy God-pleasing body has been laid down on Mount Sinai /
Where Moses beheld the burning bush which was not consumed ///
For Christ preserves it there until the time of His second coming.

3 for Greatmartyr Mercurius, in Tone 4: *Special melody “As one valiant among the martyrs....”*

Having vanquished the adversary /
Through the might of the [victorious] Spirit, /
As an invincible warrior O martyr Mercurius, /
Clad in the armor of Faith /
Thou didst defeat the multitude of spiritual enemies. /
Yet having completed thy course being condemned under the law /
For thy suffering thou didst receive thy crown, ///
O greatmartyr Mercurius

At the command of the Divine Spirit /
An angel was sent to thee, healing thy wounds /
O thou [martyr] worthy of honor! /
For thou was pierced through with burning staves /

And cunningly hung and stretched, bound by a heavy stone ///
Spilling out streams of thy blood, O martyr.

Soldiering for an earthly king, O Mercurius /
And [refusing to] sacrifice to demons as ordered by him, /
O divinely-wise and blessèd one, /
Thou didst endure the fire and torments and ensuing death, /
Hastening to Christ, O crownbearer, ///
And numbering thyself with the flock of martyrs, ever praying for the world.

Glory..., in Tone 2:

Coming together joyously /
To celebrate the feast of the divinely-wise martyr Catherine, /
O ye, who love the martyrs /
Offering her praises, like flowers, let us cry aloud to her: /
Rejoice, for exposing the orators' idle rhetoric /
For their words were filled with ignorance /
And thou didst directed them to the divine faith; /
Rejoice, for submitting thy body over to various torments for the sake of
thy love for the Creator, /
As an invincible maiden, thou wast not broken by them. /
Rejoice, for inheriting thine abode in the heavenly mansions as a reward for all thy
sufferings /
And now enjoying the delights of everlasting glory ///
Pray for the granting of the hopes of those who praise thee.

Now and ever..., Theotokion for the Feast, in Tone 8:

After thy birth, O Lady and Bride of God, /
Thou hast gone to dwell in the Temple of the Lord /
There to be brought up in the Holy of Holies, /
For thou art thyself holy; /
And Gabriel then was sent to thee, O Virgin all immaculate, to bring thee food. /
All the powers of heaven stood amazed, /
Seeing the Holy Spirit dwell in thee. /
Therefore, O Mother of God, without stain or blemish, ///
Glorified in heaven and on earth, save the race of mankind.

The Apostikha for the Feast, in Tone 1: *Special melody “Joy of the ranks of heaven....”*

Come, all ye who love the feast, and with hymns let us honor the only Mother of
God and Virgin /
For having been brought into the Temple of God /
Now, to live there in splendor, /
She is most truly the holiest Temple of Christ ///
And the mediatrix of joy for all!

Verse: And the virgins, her companions, shall be brought before the King.

Open the doors, O prophet, /
And with faith receive her who is led into the Temple of the Lord, /
For the praise of all the angels and men and their brightest joy, ///
Is come to dwell therein and rejoice, being herself the Temple of God and His habitation.

Verse: They shall come with joy and gladness, they shall enter into the palace
of the King.

Mary, the Mother of God, is brought into the Temple /
Having received bread from the angel who cried out to her: /
“Rejoice, for thou wilt conceive the Son without knowing a man, /
O blessed Theotokos and Virgin Bride of God, ///
Bringing to us mortals the restoration of the inheritance.

Glory..., for Saint Catherine, in Tone 2: *(the composition of Babyllas, the monk)*

Having attained an immaterial life /
Thou didst subject thyself to the judgment of the godless, /
O honorable and victory-bearing Catherine, /
And didst become like a garland of flowers beaming with divine brightness, /
Robed in divine power. /
Thou didst shame the commands of the torturers /
And cast down the idle philosophy of the orators, ///
O greatly-suffering Catherine.

Now and ever..., Theotokion of the Feast, in Tone 8:

David prophesied concerning thee, O undefiled one /
Foretelling thine entry and thy consecration in the temple. /
Keeping this feast today, the ends of the earth glorify thee, O far-famed Lady, /
Zachariah rejoices as he receives thee, /

At thine entry this day into the temple. /
Thou Mother of the Word of Life, /
Who, Virgin before childbirth, hast remained after childbirth Virgin! /
The Holy of Holies is filled with exultation /
As it welcomes thee, who dost sustain our life. /
Therefore we also cry to thee in song: /
Entreat thy Son and our God on our behalf, ///
That we may be granted great mercy!

The Troparion for Greatmartyr Catherine, in Tone 4:

O Jesus, Thy lamb Catherine /
Cries out to Thee with great love: /
“O my Bridegroom, I long for Thee in pain, /
I am crucified with Thee, and in baptism buried with Thee; /
I suffer for Thy sake in order to reign with Thee, /
I die for Thee in order to live in Thee. /
Accept me as a spotless victim /
Since I am put to death because of my love for Thee.” ///
Through her prayers, O Merciful One, save our souls.

Or this Troparion in the Same Tone:

Thou didst enlighten the darkness of the philosophers /
With the brilliant sun-lit rays of thy virtues, /
And thou didst drive away the gloominess of unbelief /
With the light of the moon shining brightly in the night /
Bringing faith to the Empress and denouncing the tyrant, /
O most-blessèd Catherine, thou divinely chosen bride. /
Thou didst earnestly make haste to the heavenly bridal chamber, /
There to meet Christ, thy beloved Bridegroom. /
By Him a royal crown was placed upon thy head. /
Now, standing together with the angels before Him, ///
Earnestly pray for us who keep thy most holy memory.

Glory..., Troparion for Greatmartyr Mercurius, in the Same Tone:

Thy holy martyr Mercurius, O Lord, /
Through his sufferings received his incorruptible crown from Thee, our God /
For having Thy strength he laid low his enemies /

And shattered the powerless boldness of demons ///
Through his intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

Now and ever..., Troparion for the Feast, in Tone 4:

Today is the preview of the good will of God, /
And the proclamation of the salvation of man: /
The Virgin appears clearly in the Temple of God, /
And Christ is foretold to all. /
To her, therefore, let us cry with mighty voices: /
Rejoice, O thou fulfillment ///
Of the Creator's providence.

Morning Service

At “God is the Lord...,” the Troparion for the Feast, once; that for Greatmartyr Catherine, once; Glory..., Greatmartyr Mercurius, once; Now and ever..., that of the Feast.

After the 1st Kathisma, the Sedalen, in Tone 1: Special Melody: “*When the stone had been sealed....*”

Sing praises, O ye virgins, /
Keep festival, O ye mothers, /
Give glory, all ye people, /
And bless the Most-pure Mother of God, all ye priests! /
For as a child, she is now brought into the Temple /
Being herself the Most-holy Temple of God. /
Therefore, celebrating this sacred celebration ///
We praise her as the intercessor for all mankind.

Glory..., now and ever..., [Repeat the above].

Sing praises, O ye virgins....

After the 2nd Kathisma, the Sedalen, in Tone 1: Special Melody: “*When the stone had been sealed....*”

Being thyself the Holy of Holies, O Theotokos, /
Thou wast brought to dwell in the Holy of Holies, as was worthy of thee, /
For thou art the living shrine of the Lord /

24 NOVEMBER: GREATMARTYR CATHERINE, GREATMARTYR MERCURIUS

And truly the divine habitation of the Holy Spirit, O Virgin Mother. /
Therefore, thy Son, the Only-begotten of the Father and Consubstantial with the Spirit /
Made his abode in thee, who knowest no wedlock, ///
By this deifying the race of mankind.

Glory..., now and ever..., [Repeat the above].

Being thyself the Holy of Holies, O Theotokos....

The Canon

The canon of the Feast of the Entrance, with 6 troparia, including the irmos,
in Tone 4, and two for the Saints with 8 troparia, in Tone 8.

incomplete as of 9/19/2013

After Ode 3, the Kontakion for the Feast, in Tone 4: Special melody “Willingly lifted up on the Cross....”)

The most pure temple of the Savior, /
The precious bridal chamber and Virgin, /
The sacred treasure of the glory of God /
Is led today into the House of the Lord; /
With her she brings the grace of the Divine Spirit, /
Of her the angels of God sing in praise: ///
“Truly she is the tabernacle of heaven,”

After Ode 6, the Kontakion for Saint Catherine, in Tone 2: Special melody “Seeking the highest....”)

O ye lovers of the martyrs, form a solemn rank /
Divinely honoring the all-wise Catherine. /
For she proclaimed Christ on the field of battle /
Trampling on the serpent ///
Ridiculing the knowledge of the eloquent.

At the Praises, four stikhera for Saint Catherine, in Tone 4: Special melody “Thou hast given a sign....”

Celebrating the most sacred memory of thine honorable sufferings /
O all-praised Catherine, /
We ceaselessly glorify Him Who granted thee steadfast strength /
And showed thee to be victorious, /
Granting thee words with which to frighten the orators, ///
Our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Lover of mankind. *(Twice)*

O glorious Catherine, thou willing martyr /
Shining forth with divine power thou didst expose the evil tyrant /
And the wicked folly of pagan worship, /
Destroying them with the light of the knowledge of God and divine grace. /
For this Christ, the Savior of our souls, ///
Hath granted thee, O innocent virgin, the martyrs crown.

Opening thy lips in speech, most glorious Catherine, /
Thou didst receive the grace of the Holy Spirit; /
And cleansing thyself with the virtues and patient prayer /
Thou didst trample upon the pride of the tyrant /
And with wisdom divine preferred the beauty of the spirit to the beauty of the body, /
O adornment of the martyrs.

Glory..., for Saint Catherine, in Tone 2: *(Same as “Glory” of the Apostikha at Vespers)*

Having attained an immaterial life /
Thou didst subject thyself to the judgment of the godless, /
O honorable and victory-bearing Catherine, /
And didst become like a garland of flowers beaming with divine brightness, /
Robed in divine power. /
Thou didst shame the commands of thy torturers /
Casting down the idle philosophy of the orators, ///
O greatly-suffering Catherine.

Now and ever..., in Tone 6: *(The composition of Sergius the Hagiapolite)*

Today let us, the assembly of the faithful gathered together, /
Celebrate in spirit, /
And reverently praise the Divine maiden, Virgin and Mother of God, /
As she is led into the temple of the Lord; /
She who was forechosen from all generations /
To be the dwelling place of Christ the Master and God of all. /
O virgins bearing lamps, go before her, honoring the majestic advance of the Ever-Virgin. /

24 NOVEMBER: GREATMARTYR CATHERINE, GREATMARTYR MERCURIUS

O mothers, setting aside every sorrow, follow them in gladness, /
Singing the praises of her who became the Mother of God /
And mediatrix of all joy for the world. /
With the angel joyfully let us all cry “Rejoice” /
To her that is full of grace ///
Ever interceding for our souls.

The Apostikha in Tone 2: *Special melody, “O house of Ephratha....”*

The Thrice-radiant Light ignited a fire in thee, O Theotokos, /
Inside the temple of glory, ///
And magnifying thee, He sends thee sustenance from heaven.

Verse: And the virgins, her companions, shall be brought before the King.

Thou didst spring forth from the root of David, O Virgin, /
And Gabriel, bearing glad tidings, cried out to thee: ///
“Thou shalt give birth to God, O most-pure one!”

Verse: They shall come with joy and gladness, they shall enter into the palace of the King.

Good was the sacred and holy union of Joachim and Anna, /
For the most-pure one of born of them ///
And is now brought before her Creator.

Glory..., now and ever..., in the Same Tone: *(and melody)*

Accept the most-pure Mother of God, O ye gates of heaven , /
The Virgin Mary who knew not man, ///
From whom was born the deliverance of all mankind.

Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 8 troparia: 4 from Odes 7 and 8 of the canon of the Feast; and 4 from Ode 6 of the canon to Greatmartyr Catherine.

The Prokeimenon, in Tone 4: God is wondrous in His saints / the God of Israel. *Verse:* Bless God in the churches, the Lord, from the wellsprings of Israel.

The Epistle: (233) Ephesians 6:10-17

24 NOVEMBER: GREATMARTYR CATHERINE, GREATMARTYR MERCURIUS

The Alleluia, in Tone 1: The righteous cried and the Lord heard them, and delivered them from all their troubles. *Verse:* Many are the afflictions of the righteous, and the lord will deliver them out of them all.

The Gospel: (106) Luke 21:12-19

Communion Hymn: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just!

Revised /Corrected 10/11/2013 SDA